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New York, May 19/40. Lewis Tappan

Dear Brother Phelps,

I rec^d yr letter this morning, and hasten to answer it before the mail closes. I am strongly disposed, for one, to acquiesce in yr decision not to go to England to attend the Convention 12th June, and simply for the reason you give - after stating the case - "our cause will not suffer in England so much without (you), as it will here." Garrison is determined to introduce the woman question in England. He avowed this at a meeting in Mr Wright's Chh last evening. But Birney & Stanton understand it. Could you have gone out simultaneously with W.L.G. and N.P.R. it would have been very desirable. It would be worth a good deal, for you, who were here during the whole proceedings, should be on the ground to state the case fairly and to correct misrepresentations. But your letter satisfies me that you can do more good here. And then we shall save the money! How easily men are persuaded to acquiesce in a course that will save to them their pennies.

It is important, as you say, that our Society should forthwith, have the services of some one, as Secretary at once. Br Torrey will not give satisfaction, I am sure. He has a clear head, but has not enough of a tender spirit. It is immensely important that we begin & continue to exhibit a new anti-Slavery spirit, both towards abolition brethren from whom we have separated - to those in the free States who kept aloof from us - and towards slave-holders. We must do this. If we do, we shall increase greatly. But if we do otherwise we shall lose favor both with God & man. Mr Torrey, the last day, exhibited a good spirit - so did St. Clair; but the discussion on May's letter was not plain. In this point of view it would be better that Br Leavitt should not be the Secretary. He has come into collision with so many that a new man will be preferable. The Emancipator too, I think, should be separate from our Committee. Mr L. will not probably go to England.

I think the Ex. Com. will prefer you for Secretary to any other man. Mr Birney thinks of going to Ohio to reside, & Stanton's forte is lecturing. Connected with the secretaryship might be a small paper, like the B. & F. Anti S. Reporter, to be published monthly, semi-monthly or weekly as might be thought best. I think you had best go to Concord &c. Meantime we will get out one number of the American & Foreign Anti Slavery Reporter, containing the Proceedings of the Convention, Constitution, Officers & the Address of the Com^ee. and have the paper distributed freely over the country.

I send you a proof for your correction. We were authorized to make verbal alterations. Consult it if you please very sound brethren & return the slip to me with your remarks. Do not let it get into print. Make suggestions about the Address - short & plain.

Truly yours

Lewis Tappan

W.L.G. went last evening to a meeting at T.S. Wright's Chh & made a speech of 90 minutes. A Res^n was then introduced by Van R. glorifying W.L.G. &c. but it was indefinitely postponed! —

There has been considerable talk among distant members of the Convention about Mass men doing so much of the talking!

L. Tappan

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May 19. 1840.